



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at steve.coe@deg.virginia.gov. We welcome news submittals from the public and local governments.

Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and Recycling

Sheila Barnett, Va DEQ: Over 60 people registered to attend the Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and Recycling (VCLP&R) Conference that was held in Lynchburg at the Wyndham on October 19 – 20. The Wyndham is proud of its status as a green lodging facility, and attendees participated in a "What makes the Wyndham a Green Hotel?" scavenger hunt Wednesday evening.

Presenters discussed curbside and transfer station recycling and household hazardous waste collections. Dr. Sharon Gaston and Richard Halttunen shared their book **Turtle Without a Home** and gave a puppet presentation about a turtle that leaves its pond because of trash and finds a friendly schoolyard habitat to make its new home.

A police officer from Bedford discussed Virginia's cover your load law. Pamela Cooper, Chesterfield County and Clara Mills, Spotsylvania County gave a special presentation for new litter program managers about materials that have been developed for teaching about litter in their localities.

The VCLP&R plays a major role in helping locality litter control and recycling program coordinators with program ideas and information about participating in the annual litter and recycling grant cycle. For more information, visit the VCLP&R website at <http://www.virginia-council.org>.

Happy Holidays

Thanksgiving is now over, and Christmas and New Years Day are almost upon us. I hope everyone has had a fulfilling year, and that you will have time as the year comes to an end to spend quality time with family, friends, and colleagues.

I hope this newsletter has provided you with ideas, networking contacts, and access to information that you might possibly have missed. As 2012 comes into focus, I trust that **Recycling Lines** will continue to provide helpful updates on environmental programs and projects, and to provide a window into what other states and regions are doing to promote and grow recycling. **Happy New Year!**

Did You Know?

- The Virginia Recycling Association held its annual membership meeting on November 1, 2011 in Charlottesville. Presentations included information on Boosting Recycling in the Commonwealth and VRA's markets council planning. The presentations are available for viewing at www.vrarecycles.org.
- According to the Scrap Recycling industry, metal can be recycled unlimited times, while paper can be recycled four to seven times. A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the shelf within 60 days.
- The Virginia Recycling Association reported that there were 46 American Recycles Day events occurring in Virginia in November. Congratulations to all hosts.

Great American Can Roundup School Challenge

The Can Manufacturers Institute is continuing the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the aluminum beverage can with the second annual Great America Can RoundUp School Recycling Challenge. Schools can compete to recycle the most aluminum beverage cans per capita between America Recycles Day 2011 and Earth Day 2012!

The School Recycling Challenge is open to all K-12 public and private schools located in the United States and the District of Columbia who have **registered by December 15, 2011**. The Can Manufacturers Institute is giving away a \$1,000 per state prize to the top per capita school and an additional \$5,000 to the top recycling school, plus the value of the cans and the chance to win \$50 pizza cards.

This is a great opportunity for schools to show their true green spirit and environmental leadership by stepping up to the Great American Can Roundup School Recycling Challenge.

Visit <http://www.cancentral.com/roundup/> for more information.

Web Links of Interest

- www.greenergadgets.org (the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)® supports end-of-life electronics through its recycling locator)
- www.recycleyourplastics.org (gateway for information on plastics recycling)

Commercial Sector Recycling Fact Sheets from ASTSWMO

The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) has prepared a Commercial Recycling reference document for State, local and national recycling coordinators/managers, as well as solid waste sustainability managers. The following is an excerpted section on Small Business Recycling.

SMALL BUSINESS RECYCLING

Introduction

Recycling is good for the environment – and the economy. While the environmental benefits of recycling are well known, that recycling plays an integral role in the nation's economy is less known. By turning waste into valuable raw materials, recycling creates jobs, builds more competitive manufacturing industries and stimulates the development of green technology. Clearly, recycling is good business. Recycling also is good for your business.

Why should a business recycle? To begin with, businesses and industry create as much as 35-45 percent of the nation's waste stream according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Recycling can save businesses money in avoided disposal costs. Recycling also may generate revenue through the sale of recyclables. Finally, recycling conserves natural resources and saves energy. .

Businesses can do their part and buy recycled-content products. There are more than 4,500 recycled-content products available, and this number continues to grow. No matter what type or size of business – manufacturing, health care, retail, wholesale, food service, professional services and construction – it can benefit from recycling

Resources

State and Local

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection offers comprehensive waste reduction and recycling information targeting businesses, including beneficial reuse of solid waste, buying recycled, market information, ReUse Centers and Material Exchanges. Of particular value may be this publication: "Setting up a Recycling Program at Your Small Business". While it is customized, featuring recycled-content products made in Minnesota, the listing shows the wide range of products and services that are available.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) provides a variety of tips and best management practices (BMPs) for businesses through its S.C. Smart Business Recycling Program. The simple, easy-to-follow BMPs include setting up a recycling program as well as recycling of cardboard, pallets, office paper, fluorescent bulbs and beverage containers.

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Horry County (South Carolina) offers an excellent example of a local government offering business recycling.

King County (Washington) offers several programs that can help reduce waste and promote recycling at a business.

The City of Arlington (Virginia) provides guides and brochures as well as sample signs and posters targeting business recycling.

Miami-Dade County (Florida) offers a free, on-line service that helps businesses create a customized profile of their waste stream as well as waste reduction and recycling options.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

USEPA's WasteWise Program is designed to help its member partners (including businesses and industry) preserve resources and prevent waste. Benefits of the free program include:

- a toll-free help line for technical assistance;
- outreach and educational material;
- an annual climate profile describing greenhouse gas reductions;
- networking opportunities, recognition in WasteWise publications, case studies and meetings; and
- an opportunity to receive national recognition for outstanding achievement.

USEPA provides comprehensive information on buying recycled content products. USEPA provides an overview on how all organizations – including businesses - can reduce waste.

Case Studies/Success Stories

USEPA's [Retail Industry Portal](#) provides a comprehensive overview of resources to help prevent or resolve environmental issues at retail establishments. Two types of resources are available – compliance and sustainability. One of the key latter resources that was previously cited is "[America's Marketplace Recycles: A Guide to Waste Reduction at Shopping Centers](#)." This guide serves as a resource for local and State recycling coordinators and contains numerous case examples from shopping centers and retailers who are leaders in waste prevention and recycling.

Visit

http://astswmo.org/Files/Policies_and_Publications/Solid_Waste/MSWRTF-Commercial_Sector_Recycling_Fact_Sheets-12-22-2010.pdf for the complete document.

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